



As reprinted from 08/25/2008

Senate forest management task force to meet in Show Low



A State Forest Management task force will hear testimony on several issues beginning August 28 in Show Low.

Republican Senator Sylvia Allen, of Snowflake, will chair the Senate Ad Hoc Task Force to be held at the Show Low Council Chambers.

The agenda will include the Forest Service Travel Management Rule, forest revenue and the economic status of Arizona's ranchers.

The task force will hear testimony on the economic impact of the Forest Service's proposed Travel Management Rule that would close many roads, change allowable camping sites and impose other restrictions.

"Our rural counties have moved strongly into a recreation economy, and the fear is that road closures will negatively affect revenues as well as compound the problem for a future return of forest product industries," Senator Allen said.

State treasurer Dean Martin is expected to give an in-depth presentation of projected state revenues to spur discussion on the continuing state deficit's effect on cities and counties and how it impacts critical decisions for elected officials.

The meeting is open to the public and will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday.

Reported by: **Trevor Ravenscraft**